

# Out-of-Home Placement and Higher Education Participation 2022

## Report Requirements

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This report is submitted pursuant to Education Article § 24-703.1(b), Annotated Code of Maryland, which requires the MLDS Center to annually publish, on or before December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, “information regarding the experience of former children in out-of-home placements and how out-of-home placement affected participation in higher education.”

Specifically, MLDS Center is to report, disaggregated by county:

1. The rate of enrollment in institutions of higher education by placement type;
2. The type of institution of higher education in which children in out-of-home placement are enrolled;
3. The type of financial support provided to children in out-of-home placement enrolled in an institution of higher education; and
4. The graduation rate for children in out-of-home placements from institutions of higher education.

This reporting requirement was established during the 2021 legislative session (see Chapter 306, Laws of 2021). The bill went into effect on October 1, 2021. Prior to the legislation, the MLDS Center was not permitted to have child welfare data. The Center and the Department of Human Services (DHS), the custodian of child welfare data, entered into a memorandum of understand to establish a data sharing agreement on February 1, 2022. Data elements were approved by the MLDS Governing Board for inclusion in the MLDS Center Data Inventory on March 11, 2022. Because of the relatively small population, the report does not disaggregate results by placement type or county. Future reports will develop strategies for disaggregating the data while still ensuring student privacy.



### Suggested Citation

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### Content Contact

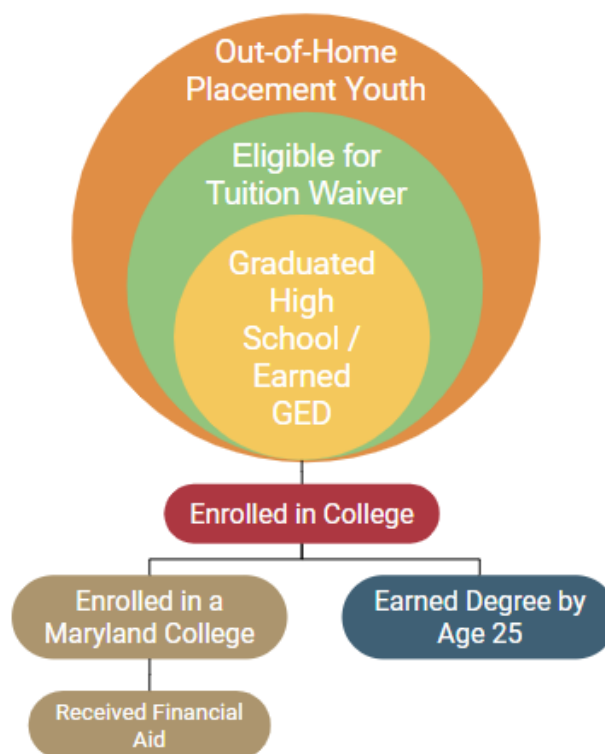
For additional information on this report, please contact the MLDS Center at [MLDS.Center@Maryland.gov](mailto:MLDS.Center@Maryland.gov).

## Report Population

The baseline population for this report was defined in accordance with the eligibility requirements for the State of Maryland's *Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients*. This tuition waiver was established in State law in 2014 (see Education Article § 15-106.1).

### Eligibility for the Tuition Waiver

- Students under the age of 25 who are or were in an out-of-home placement in Maryland, as reported by the MD Department of Human Services, and who are attending a Maryland public college or university are eligible to apply.
- At the time of applying, the student must have been placed or was in an out-of-home placement by the Maryland Department of Human Services.
- The student must have:
  - a) Been placed in out-of-home placement by the Maryland Department of Human Services; and
  - b) Resided in an out-of-home placement on the individual's 18th birthday or at the time of graduation from high school or upon successful completion of the General Education Development (GED) examination; OR
  - c) Resided in an out-of-home placement for at least one year on or after the individual's 13th birthday and entered into guardianship, been adopted, or reunited with at least one of the individual's parents; OR
  - d) Been the younger sibling of an individual who met the qualifications outlined in section (a) and (b) above, and was concurrently placed into the same guardianship by the same parent, or was adopted by the same adoptive family with the older sibling.



All majors are eligible to apply, both credit bearing and non-credit bearing courses.

Additional information on the scholarship program can be obtained from the Maryland Higher Education Commission's website:

[https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog\\_fostercare.aspx/](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_fostercare.aspx/).

The annual report completed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission on tuition waivers is also available on the commission's website: <https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Pages/research/index.aspx>.

As the reporting requirement focuses on college-going patterns, only those out-of-home placement youth eligible for the tuition waiver who graduated from high school or earned a GED diploma are included in this analysis as earning a high school diploma is a prerequisite to college enrollment. Additionally, the financial aid data that the MLDS Center receives only provides information for students who enroll in college in Maryland. Some out-of-home placement youth enroll in college out-of-state so they are excluded from the financial aid analysis.

Data on the baseline population are linked to Maryland public high school records, Maryland GED records, and in-state and out-of-state college records. Each year, around 300 youth in out-of-home placement in Maryland are adopted.<sup>i</sup> Linking data on out-of-home placement youth who are adopted presents unique challenges. A youth's social security number, last name and first name may all change at the time of adoption. These identity changes impact the ability to link data across different data sources as the three key elements for linking, *social security number, last name and first name*, that appeared in the out-of-home placement record may be partially or fully altered preventing linkage to any education and workforce records after adoption. Therefore, the results presented here should be interpreted with caution. Out-of-home placement youths *not* reported as college-going, receiving financial aid, and earning a college degree may have indeed went to college, earned a degree, and leveraged financial aid to make college affordable, but done so with an identity that cannot be linked to the original out-of-home placement record.

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## Statewide Analysis

**Table 1** reports college-going rates for youth who experienced out-of-home placement. Each youth is assigned to a cohort year based upon the year the youth graduated from high school or earned a General Education Development (GED) high school diploma. College-going is reported for those who enroll in college either full-time or part-time as degree-seeking or non-degree seeking students at any point after high school graduation (Complete College-Going). Complete College Enrollment is not reported until three years have lapsed since high school graduation.<sup>ii</sup> The totals reported for the college enrollment are impacted by the number of years that have passed since high school graduation or GED attainment. The totals reported for college enrollment should not be interpreted as declines in college enrollment as not all cohorts have had the same amount of time lapse since high school graduation or GED attainment. Overall, 59% of youth who experienced out-of-home placement enrolled in college after earning a high school diploma.

**Table 1. College-Going Rates for Youth in Out-of-Home Placement, State of Maryland, 2011-2012 to 2016-2017**

Cohort Year	Out-of-Home Youth with a High School Diploma <sup>iii</sup>	Complete College Going <sup>iv</sup>	
		Total	%
<b>2011-2012</b>	243	163	67%
<b>2012-2013</b>	288	173	60%
<b>2013-2014</b>	288	177	61%
<b>2014-2015</b>	242	145	60%
<b>2015-2016</b>	291	148	51%
<b>2016-2017</b>	280	150	54%
<b>Total</b>	1,632	956	59%

The **Table 2** below reports college-going rates by college type for youth experiencing out-of-home placement. Over 86% of out-of-home placement youth enroll at least once in a Maryland community college, while 24% enrolled at least once in a four-year institution.

**Table 2. College-Going Rates for Youth in Out-of-Home Placement by College Type, State of Maryland, 2011-2012 to 2016-2017**

Cohort Year	Out-of-Home Youth with Complete <sup>iii</sup> College Going	College-Going by College Type					
		Maryland Community College		Maryland Four-Year Institution (Public or State-Aided Independent) <sup>v</sup>		Out-of-State Institution <sup>vi</sup>	
		Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
<b>2011-2012</b>	163	150	92%	45	28%	18	11%
<b>2012-2013</b>	173	148	86%	35	20%	24	14%
<b>2013-2014</b>	177	159	90%	32	18%	18	10%
<b>2014-2015</b>	145	121	83%	35	24%	19	13%
<b>2015-2016</b>	148	122	82%	37	25%	12	8%
<b>2016-2017</b>	150	118	79%	42	28%	14	9%
<b>Total</b>	956	818	86%	226	24%	105	11%

**Note:** Distribution by *College Type* does not sum to total because some youth enrolled in more than one college type. Enrollments may be consecutive or concurrent. For example, enrollment may be sequential, from a community college to a four-year institution or concurrent, at both a four-year institution and community college simultaneously.

**Table 3** reports the college funding received by youth experiencing out-of-home placement. Funding is reported as funds received during the first year of college. Some students received more than one type of funding while others did not receive any funding in their first year of college.

The *Tuition Waiver for Foster Care Recipients* is a waiver for youth enrolled in undergraduate degrees at Maryland public institutions of higher education. To utilize the tuition waiver, a student must be under the age of 25 while attending a Maryland public community college or four-year public institutions. Students who receive the waiver have the waiver applied to all tuition and fees at an institution before other types of scholarships or grants (state, federal or institutional) are applied. The waiver does not include room, board, books, or transportation costs.

There are several restrictions on eligibility for the tuition waiver, including age, enrollment status, and filing status for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA). Those restrictions and conditions for renewal of the waiver can be reviewed on the Maryland Higher Education Commission's website:

[https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/pr og\\_fostercare.aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/pr og_fostercare.aspx).

**Table 3. College-Funding during First Year of College for Out-of-Home Placement Youth by Funding Source, State of Maryland, 2011-2012 to 2016-2017**

Cohort Year	Complete <sup>iii</sup> College Going		College-Going by Funding Type during First Year of Undergraduate College											
			Received Any Aid		Federal Aid		State Aid				Institutional Aid		None	
	Any State Aid						Foster Care Tuition Waiver							
									All	Maryland Only				
2011-2012	163	159	138	87%	138	100%	39	28%	*	*	15	11%	21	13%
2012-2013	173	160	132	83%	130	98%	58	44%	*	*	22	17%	28	18%
2013-2014	177	169	150	89%	145	97%	78	52%	52	35%	10	7%	19	11%
2014-2015	145	139	123	88%	112	91%	79	64%	49	40%	16	13%	16	12%
2015-2016	148	139	116	83%	106	91%	96	83%	86	74%	19	16%	23	17%
2016-2017	150	144	125	87%	116	93%	91	73%	76	61%	19	15%	19	13%
Total	956	910	784	86%	747	95%	441	56%	290	37%	101	13%	126	14%

**Note:** Financial Aid can only be reported for students who enroll in college in Maryland. Some students received more than one type of funding while others did not receive any funding in their first year of college, thus counts reported by Fund Type do not sum to the total. MLDS Center may only report aggregate, de-identified data. Data requests containing data elements subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) require suppressing values less than 10 to avoid unauthorized disclosure of protected information. Additional values are masked to prevent calculating masked values when group totals and sub-totals are provided. The MLDS Center uses a variety of methods for suppressing, including rounding and perturbing. Suppressed cells are indicated with an \*.

**Table 4** reports college graduation rates for youth experiencing out-of-home placement. Overall, 12% of youth experiencing out-of-home placement graduate from college by age 25. College graduation is reported only when youth within a cohort have turned age 25. It is possible that some youth earn a college degree after age 25, those youth are not reported in this table.

**Note:** College-going is reported for those who enroll in college either full-time or part-time as degree-seeking or non-degree seeking students at any point after high school graduation (Complete College-Going). Complete College Enrollment is not reported until three years have lapsed since high school graduation and degree attainment is only reported for cohorts that have reached age 25.

**Table 4. College Graduation Rates for Out-of-Home Placement Youth, State of Maryland, 2011-2012 to 2013-2014**

Cohort Year	Complete <sup>iii</sup> College Going	College Degree by Age 25	
		Total	%
<b>2011-2012</b>	163	25	15%
<b>2012-2013</b>	173	21	12%
<b>2013-2014</b>	177	15	8%
<b>Total</b>	513	61	12%

## State Agencies and Data

The **Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center** (MLDS Center) is the State of Maryland's central repository for student and workforce data. The MLDS Center develops and maintains the MLDS to provide analyses, produce relevant information, and inform choices to improve student and workforce outcomes in the State of Maryland.

The **Department of Human Services** is the State of Maryland's primary social service provider. The Department, through its 24 local departments of social services, aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

<https://dhs.maryland.gov/about-dhs/>

## MLDS Data

The MLDS connects data from across Maryland's education, child & youth services and workforce agencies. These data are subject to strict data management, security, and privacy requirements. The MLDS may only report aggregated, de-identified data. All research conducted by the MLDS Center focuses on what happens to students before and after critical transitions between education and workforce pathways. All research and analysis using the MLDS is cross-sector. Below is an overview of the available data within the System to support the analysis in this report:

### Education Data

The MLDS contains education data on all students from Maryland public high schools, students attending Maryland public and state-aided independent institutions of higher education, and adults completing GED® Testing or the National External Diploma Program® (NEDP®). Education data begin with the 2007-2008 academic year. The MLDS does not contain education data on students in private high schools or private institutions of higher education. Nor does the MLDS contain data on postsecondary students in continuing education or noncredit programs. Further, data on unsuccessful attempts at fulfilling the GED® or NEDP® requirements are not included in the System. The MLDS contains limited information on out-of-state college enrollment and graduation for Maryland public high school graduates.

### Child Welfare Data

The MLDS contains data on youth in out-of-home placement from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Out-of-home placement data begin with the 2007-2008 academic year. These data include youth in out-of-home placement for all Maryland counties and Baltimore City. Out-of-home placement, or foster care, is a temporary placement for youth who are unable to remain living at home. Out-of-home placement includes both youth who are residing in private homes and those in group care settings. Youth may experience one or more placement type and location over the duration of their time in out-of-home placement. DHS actively works to develop permanency plans for out-of-placement youth, which include reunification with parents, placement with relatives, or adoption. Each year, around 300 youth in out-of-home placement in Maryland are adopted.<sup>vii</sup> Linking data on out-of-home placement youth who are adopted presents unique challenges. A youth's social security number, last name and first name may all change at the time of adoption. These identity changes impact the ability to link data across different data sources as the three key elements for linking, *social security number, last name and first name*, that appeared in the out-of-home placement record may be partially or fully altered preventing linkage to any education and workforce records after adoption. Out-of-home placement youths *not* reported as earning a high school diploma, enrolling and graduating from college, or engaged in the workforce may have indeed earned a high school diploma, enrolled in and completed college and be gainfully employed in the workforce but done so with an identity that cannot be linked to the original out-of-home placement record.

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<sup>i</sup>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2022). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption: FY 2012-2021. AFCARS data, U. S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/trends-foster-care-adoption>

<sup>ii</sup>Baseline population for this report is defined as those eligible for the Foster Care Tuition Waiver. Out-of-Home placement youth who are not eligible for the tuition waiver are excluded. Out-of-home placement youth who did not graduate from high school or earn a GED are excluded as they are not eligible for degree-seeking college enrollment. Total exclusions are approximately 100 youth per cohort year. Information on the Foster Care Tuition Waiver can be found here:

[https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog\\_fostercare.aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_fostercare.aspx)

<sup>iii</sup>High School diploma includes students who earn a diploma by graduating from high school and those earn a diploma through the General Education Development (GED) test. Out-of-Home youth with a GED diploma constitute about 2% of the total population.

<sup>iv</sup>An out-of-home placement youth with a high school diploma is considered enrolled in college if the youth meets the definition of Complete College Enrollment. Complete college enrollment is defined as a high school diploma earner who enrolls in college either full-time or part-time as degree-seeking or non-degree seeking at any point after high school graduation or GED attainment. College enrollment is reported for Complete enrollees once three years have lapsed since high school graduation or GED attainment. The totals reported for the Complete enrollment are impacted by the number of years that have passed since high school graduation or GED attainment. The totals reported for college enrollment should not be interpreted as declines in college enrollment as not all cohorts have had the same amount of time lapse since high school graduation or GED attainment.

<sup>v</sup>Four-Year public institutions include Bowie State University; Coppin State University; Frostburg State University; Salisbury University; Towson University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland Eastern Shore; University of Maryland Global Campus; Morgan State University and St. Mary's College of Maryland. State-Aided Independents institutions include Capitol Technology University; Goucher College; Hood College; Johns Hopkins University; Loyola University Maryland; Maryland Institute College of Art; McDaniel College; Mount St. Mary's University; Notre Dame of Maryland University; St. John's College; Stevenson University; Washington Adventist University and Washington College.

<sup>vi</sup>Out-of-State institutions may be two-year or four-year, and public or private.

<sup>vii</sup>U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2022). Trends in Foster Care and Adoption: FY 2012-2021. AFCARS data, U. S. Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/trends-foster-care-adoption>